



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716)843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

April 8, 2003

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Robert E. DelVicario, Jr., 43, of Suffolk County, New York, pled guilty today in U.S. District Court to making a false statement to federal Customs investigators in May 2002 when they inquired into the status of \$95,290 that had been removed from a secure area within a Customs facility here. DelVicario was the Assistant Special Agent in-Charge of the Buffalo District of the United States Customs Service at the time. Judge Richard J. Arcara will impose sentence on July 15, 2003.

Assistant United States Attorney Gregory L. Brown said the maximum penalty is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The prosecutor said that the charge arose from the removal of an evidence bag containing \$95,290 that had been seized by Customs inspectors and was in the government's custody pending forfeiture proceedings. The evidence bag had been in a secure room at the Customs office on Wehrle Drive in Williamsville, NY. The bag was identified as missing on May 6, 2002. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brown said that by pleading guilty today DelVicario admitted that, on May 9, 2002, he falsely denied having removed the evidence bag containing the cash from the secure room.

The conviction was the result of an investigation directed by Special Agent Robert Tevens of the U.S. Customs Office of Inspector General. As of March 1, 2003, the United States Customs Service and other agencies have been reorganized and are part of the Department of Homeland Security.

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